

**City of Houston, Texas, Ordinance No. 2003-645**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION CODE AND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS, RELATING TO FEES; CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** That the City of Houston Construction Code, which was adopted by Ordinance 2002-399 and became effective July 14, 2002, is hereby amended as follows:

A. IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON BUILDING CODE, SECTION 117 IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

**"SECTION 117  
PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES**

**117.1 General.**

**117.1.1 Permit or license.** An administrative fee of \$5.00 shall be charged upon the preparation of each permit or license issued by the building official. This fee shall apply regardless of whether the permit or license is issued pursuant to this code or the City Code, and it shall be payable in addition to all other applicable fees for the permit or license. The foregoing administrative fee shall not be applicable if no other fee is provided by law for the permit or license.

**117.1.2 Receipt.** An administrative fee of \$5.00 shall be charged upon the preparation of each fee or deposit receipt issued by the building official. This fee shall apply regardless of whether the fee or deposit is payable pursuant to this code or the City Code. This fee shall be in addition to all other applicable fees or deposits. When paid for a deposit or fee receipt, this fee shall neither constitute nor be refundable as a part of the deposit.

**117.1.3 Minimum permit fee.** If a fee or fees are imposed for any single permit that is issued by the building official, whether issued under this code or the City Code, and the fees otherwise established do not total more than \$12.00, then a minimum permit fee of \$12.00 shall be charged for the permit. The administrative fee assessed pursuant to Section 117.1.1 above shall not be included in the foregoing minimum permit fee calculation, and it shall be payable in addition to the minimum permit fee.

**117.1.4 Certificate of occupancy or compliance.** A fee of \$50.00 shall be charged for each certificate of occupancy or compliance issued for a building or structure or portion thereof such as an individual business lease space. A fee of \$35.00 shall be charged for each temporary certificate of occupancy issued.

**117.1.5 Reinspection fee.** In case it becomes necessary to make a reinspection of any work because of faulty materials or workmanship or incomplete work, the permittee shall pay for each reinspection a fee of \$25.00, except where a greater fee is specifically required under this code.

**117.1.6 Specially requested inspections during working hours.** Whenever a person requests that an inspector be present at a site at a specific time, the jurisdiction shall provide such inspector upon payment of all applicable fees if doing so would not interfere with the regular duties of the inspector and would not cause a delay in the inspection of other work.

Fee for specially requested inspections in addition to all other fees required by this code:

Per day, regular working hours . . . . . \$200.00

A full day's fee must be paid unless the building official finds that the request was made as a result of an unforeseeable emergency.

**117.1.7 Emergency inspections.** Emergency inspections shall be defined as those requested inspections occasioned by virtue of an unforeseeable incident or occurrence that necessitates an immediate inspection. In situations where there is a dispute as to whether an actual emergency occurred, the decision of the building official shall be final.

Fees:

Minimum four hours . . . . . \$150.00

Each hour or portion thereof exceeding four hours . . . . . \$25.00

Total not to exceed \$200.00 if inspection is made during regular working hours. This fee shall be in addition to all other fees required by this code.

**117.1.8 Inspections and plan reviews outside regular working hours.** Whenever a person requests that an inspector make an inspection or a plan analyst review plans at times other than during regular working hours, or on jurisdiction-observed holidays or weekends, the plan analyst or inspector shall be available when approved by the building official upon payment of all applicable fees if such would not interfere with the regular duties of the inspector or create an undue burden on such inspector or plan analyst.

Fees:

Minimum four hours ..... \$240.00

Each hour or portion thereof exceeding four hours ..... \$35.00

This fee shall be in addition to all other fees required by this code.

**117.1.9 Inspections outside of jurisdiction.** The fee for an inspection outside the jurisdiction shall be a minimum of \$200.00 per person plus \$0.20 per vehicle mile. This fee shall not apply to inspections performed under Section 117.1.11.

**117.1.10 Exemption from permits and fees.** To the extent that they are exempt as a matter of law from compliance with the Building Code, neither the State of Texas nor the United States of America shall be required to obtain a building permit for work undertaken for or performed by either of them; however, the fees set forth in this section shall be applicable to the extent that the State of Texas, or the United States of America elects to obtain any permit for exempt work.

Except for exempt work undertaken by or for the State of Texas, or the United States of America, building permits shall be required for any political subdivision or unit of government (including, but not limited to, the jurisdiction) in the same manner and to the same extent as for work performed by or for other persons. The fees prescribed in this section shall be applicable to all permits issued to or for governmental agencies.

Counties are required to comply with the provisions of the Building Code. Except as provided by Section 212.903 of the Texas Local Government Code, a county shall notify the building official of each work project that is undertaken. The building official shall, upon request and demonstration of capacity, allow a county to self-permit and self-inspect work that is performed by or for the county on county-owned buildings and facilities for which a permit is required. No fee shall be imposed hereunder for work that a county is authorized to self-permit and self-inspect.

**117.1.11 Approved fabricators/certifying agent or agency.** The following permit fees shall apply to an approved fabricator/certifying agent or agency:

1. Approved certifying agent or agency, as described in Chapter 17: A fee of \$450.00 if an inspection is made for the purpose of approving the agent or agency. The agent or agency shall reimburse the jurisdiction for travel expenses incurred in performing inspections outside Harris or a contiguous county.
2. Approved fabricator as defined in Chapter 2: A fee of \$500.00 for each inspection made for the purpose of verifying and approving the fabricator's quality control program. The fabricator shall reimburse the

jurisdiction for travel expenses incurred in performing inspections outside Harris or a contiguous county.

**117.1.12 Express plan review service.** Expedited review of plans for certain types of construction projects shall be available when approved by the building official. The building official shall develop guidelines on proper use of this service, determining qualified projects and the assessment of service fees when not specifically noted in this code.

The fee for expedited service shall be 65 percent of the building permit fee calculated as provided in Section 117.2. This fee shall be separate from, and in addition to, the structural permit fee.

If for any reason the building official is not able to complete the review of any set of plans for which the expedited review fee has been paid and approve or disapprove the same within seven days of their receipt (Saturdays, Sundays and jurisdiction-observed holidays excluded), then the applicant shall, upon written request therefor, be entitled to a refund of the expedited review fee.

**Exception:** Any processing delay for required plan review by other jurisdiction departments, not under control of the building official, shall not be charged to the seven-day review time.

Payment of the expedited review fee allows review of the plans in the form presented at the time the fee is paid and one additional review in the event the drawings must be corrected to comply with this code or other applicable laws. The payment shall not entitle the applicant to expedited review of any further revisions to the plans.

**117.1.13 Name or Address Changes.**

Name change each .....	\$50.00
Address change each .....	\$50.00

**117.2 Structural.**

**117.2.1 Buildings.** The following building permit fees shall be required by this code:

New buildings and additions:

\$0.05 per square foot of floor space, with a minimum fee of . . \$35.00

Alterations, remodeling, repairs: 0.45 of 1% of valuation, with a minimum fee .....

	\$35.00
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Demolition of any building:

For the first story .....	\$55.00
For each additional story .....	\$25.00
Stationary and floating piers:	
First 100 square feet of deck area .....	\$20.00
Each additional square foot .....	\$0.15
Towers, other than sign structures: 0.45 of 1% valuation, with a minimum fee .....	\$35.00
Incinerators (other than domestic outdoor type), each .....	\$75.00
Bulkheads:	
For first 100 lineal feet or part thereof .....	\$40.00
Each additional 100 lineal feet or part thereof .....	\$10.00
Prefabricated fireplaces .....	\$12.00
Sand blasting or water blasting .....	\$30.00
Foundation only:	
\$0.05 per square foot of floor space or excavation for foundation, with a minimum fee of .....	\$30.00
Excavation permit	
(other than those covered by a building permit) .....	\$30.00
Loading docks (uncovered): first 100 lineal feet or part thereof ..	\$30.00
Each additional lineal foot .....	\$0.07
Barricades, first 100 lineal feet .....	\$55.00
Each additional 100 lineal feet or part thereof .....	\$15.00
Paint spray booth .....	\$30.00
Concrete slab, uncovered (other than those for which a building permit is required and minor incidental slabs): \$0.05 per square foot with a minimum of .....	\$30.00
Heliport and helistops (interdepartmental inspections--health, structure, fire and aviation safety) .....	\$700.00
Duplicate job card .....	\$20.00

**117.2.2 Chemical plants.** Permit fees for petroleum processing installations; nuclear reactor complexes and processing facilities; facilities manufacturing, processing, distributing or storing energy; other facilities processing, storing or manufacturing materials or energy, not otherwise covered by a construction permit: 0.45 of 1% of valuation, with minimum of \$35.00

**117.2.3 Occupancy and inspection.** The following permit fees apply to occupancy and inspection of existing buildings:

1. A Certificate of Occupancy or a life safety compliance inspection and certificates (for compliance with Appendix L; includes initial compliance inspection, final inspection and issuance of certificate; does not include fees for permits where work is required):

First story ..... \$300.00

Each additional story ..... \$100.00

For residential multifamily buildings per contiguous project:

For one to thirty units ..... \$300.00

Each additional unit ..... \$10.00

2. Duplicate life safety compliance certificate ..... \$35.00
3. Certificate name change only ..... \$50.00
4. Duplicate Certificate of Occupancy ..... \$35.00
5. Incinerator inspection ..... \$35.00
6. Revalidation inspection ..... \$25.00
7. Change of address request ..... \$50.00
8. Certificate of compliance-inspection for resale of existing house  
when such inspection has been requested by the owner ..... \$50.00
9. Certificate for individual retail or office spaces of less than 3,000 square feet in multi-tenant buildings:

If the certificate is requested in connection with and the inspection is performed during the same inspection with the building core  
..... \$35.00

Otherwise ..... \$125.00

**117.2.4 Fences.** Permit fees for fences shall be as follows:

For the first 100 lineal feet or part thereof ..... \$55.00

For each additional 100 lineal feet or part thereof . . . . . \$7.00

**117.2.5 Fire escapes.** Permit fees for fire escapes shall be as follows:

For each fire escape four stories or less in height . . . . . \$30.00

For each additional story in height . . . . . \$15.00

**117.2.6 Sidewalks, driveways, culverts, curbs and gutters.** Permit fees for sidewalks, driveways, culverts, curbs and gutters covered by this code shall be as follows:

Sidewalks:

For first 100 lineal feet or part thereof . . . . . \$30.00

For each additional 100 lineal feet or part thereof . . . . . \$7.00

Driveways . . . . . \$30.00

Culvert pipes(not used for driveways):

For first 100 lineal feet or part thereof . . . . . \$30.00

For each additional 100 lineal feet or part thereof . . . . . \$7.00

Curb and Gutter:

For the first 100 lineal feet or part thereof . . . . . \$30.00

For each additional 100 lineal feet or part thereof . . . . . \$7.00

**117.2.7 Parking lots and paved areas.** Permit fees for parking lots (uncovered) and paved areas shall be as follows:

For first 1,000 square feet or part thereof . . . . . \$35.00

For each additional 1,000 square feet or part thereof . . . . . \$1.50

**117.2.8 Plan review fees.** Plan review fees shall be as follows:

Manufactured home parks:

15 spaces or less . . . . . \$35.00

Each additional space . . . . . \$1.50

Prefabricated buildings or modular buildings, \$0.05 per square foot,  
with a minimum of . . . . . \$35.00

Reexamination of plans:

Where previously approved plans are reexamined, the plan review fee shall be \$35.00, or 15 percent of the permit fee, whichever is greater. The

fee for reexamination of partial plans shall be determined by the building official based on the review time involved.

Outside jurisdiction plan review fee:

Plan review for buildings located outside the jurisdiction shall be 65 percent of the building permit fee as calculated in Section 117.2. This service shall only be provided at the building owner's request and subject to the availability of personnel to render the service.

### **117.3 HVAC Equipment.**

**117.3.1 General.** Fees for permits and inspections for the installation, alteration and inspection of heating, ventilating, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems shall be as follows:

1. Ventilating systems or heating-only systems (other than boilers): 1.15 percent of valuation, plus \$15.00. Toilet exhaust, outside air makeup, elevator ventilation, stair pressurization, smoke exhaust or residential ventilation fees shall be included in the air-conditioning tonnage fee. The minimum permit fee shall be \$25.00. (See Section 117.3.3 for local vent fees.)
2. Repairs or alterations (including cooling tower replacement) to an existing heating, ventilating, air-conditioning or refrigeration system: 1.15 percent of the valuation, plus \$25.00.

**Exception:** Ducts and grilles in a lease space, where total valuation is less than \$500.00: \$30.00 for each lease space.

3. Air-handling and duct systems for air-conditioning in buildings that have heating and/or cooling fluid from an external source: \$3.00 per ton [based on 400 cubic feet per minute (cfm) capacity per ton], plus \$25.00.
4. Air-conditioning cooling equipment (chillers, compressors and/or absorption units with their auxiliaries) located in a building other than the one being cooled (for instance, a central plant to supply one or more buildings): \$3.00 per ton (either new tonnage, added tonnage or standby tonnage), plus \$25.00.
5. A complete air-conditioning system where the cooling equipment, the air-handling equipment and duct system are in the same building: \$6.00 per ton of refrigeration or horsepower, whichever is greater, plus \$25.00. For air-conditioning systems that include heating (except boilers), the fee shall be included in the tonnage or horsepower fee at no extra cost, provided such heating is included on the original permit application.



6. Commercial, manufacturing and industrial process refrigeration systems: \$6.00 per ton of refrigeration or horsepower, whichever is greater, plus \$25.00.

**117.3.2 Temporary operation inspection.** For inspection of a heating, ventilation, refrigeration or air-conditioning system to be used on a temporary basis, a fee of \$30.00 shall be paid to the jurisdiction by a licensed air-conditioning contractor requesting such inspection. If the system is not approved for temporary operation on the first inspection, the usual reinspection fee will be charged for each subsequent inspection for such purpose.

**117.3.3 Local vent permit.** A fee of \$25.00 will be charged for local vent permits, central vacuum system permits and permits for ventilation fans up to 2,000 cfm. When a licensed air-conditioning contractor includes local vents in a permit, no additional fee will be required.

**117.3.4 Self-contained air-conditioning units.** Except for Group R, Division 3 occupancies, buildings using self-contained air-conditioning units: \$6.00 per ton or horsepower of all units combined, plus \$25.00.

**117.3.5 Manufactured home inspections.** For a manufactured home inspection of heating and ductwork where no state inspection has been made: \$25.00.

**117.3.6 Certificate of approval.** A fee of \$20.00 in addition to the regular permit fee shall be charged for a certificate of approval of air-conditioning for each permit taken out to add heating and/or air-conditioning to an existing residence. This \$20.00 fee shall be paid for at the time the regular permit fee is paid.

**117.4 Boilers.** Every person desiring to install, maintain or repair boilers shall file an application for a permit with the building official, stating the location and nature of work to be performed, and pay the following fees:

1. For boiler installation based on Btu input and/or HP: \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for each BHP or part thereof. The permit for installation of a single boiler in excess of 1,200 BHP shall not exceed \$3,000.00.

**Note:** For the purpose of this code, 1 BHP equals 33,000 Btu.

2. Annual fee: \$30.00 for each boiler.
3. Repair permit: 1.15% of valuation of repairs to be made, plus \$25.00

## **117.5 Plumbing.**

**117.5.1 General.** Following is a schedule of fees required for permits, with a minimum fee of \$12.00, where not otherwise specified:

Opening in street (street cut, for purpose of connection with utilities) ~~\$~~85.00  
(See Chapter 40, City Code, for additional regulations and deposits required.)

Temporary gas inspection ..... \$25.00

Gas permit and inspection (up to 3 openings) ..... \$12.00

Additional gas openings, each ..... \$3.00

Manufactured home inspection fee (where no state inspection has been made)  
..... \$25.00

Fire-protection fee (fire sprinkler system, separate permit required):

For a fire sprinkler system (any head or group of heads up to 25 that is  
regulated with a valve for any portion of a building), minimum fee  
..... \$75.00

For each additional head ..... \$2.00

Standpipe system (1 to 25 hose connections) ..... \$50.00

Each additional hose connection ..... \$2.00

#### **117.5.2 Heating gas appliances.**

Furnace (nonduct type) ..... \$12.00

Each additional furnace to be installed in same building under same  
permit ..... \$6.00

Floor furnace (nonduct type) ..... \$30.00

Incinerators (gas fired) (complete with two burners or more) .... \$60.00

Infrared heaters (one or two) ..... \$12.00

Each additional infrared heater installed under the same permit \$6.00

#### **117.5.3 Yard lights or barbecue grills.**

First opening ..... \$12.00

Each additional opening installed under same permit ..... \$6.00

#### **117.5.4 Permanent appliances.**

Wall heater (bath heaters exempt) ..... \$12.00

Each additional heater installed under same permit ..... \$6.00

Gas steam radiator ..... \$30.00

Each additional radiator installed under same permit .....	\$6.00
Commercial oven .....	\$40.00
Commercial dryer .....	\$30.00
Plumbing fixtures (one or two) .....	\$12.00
Each additional fixture installed under same permit .....	\$6.00
Warm-air circulators (nonduct), first three .....	\$30.00
Each additional to be installed under same permit .....	\$6.00
Tie to curb inlet-storm sewer .....	\$60.00
Manholes, each .....	\$60.00
Roof drain or outside downspout connection to drainage system, one or two .....	\$12.00
Each additional roof drain or downspout to be installed under the same permit .....	\$6.00
Catch basin or outside area drain, one or two .....	\$12.00
Each additional catch basin or outside area drain to be installed under same permit .....	\$6.00
Sewer connections, each .....	\$35.00
Ground in plumbing for shell building, 3,000 square feet or less floor area .....	\$30.00
For each additional 1,000 square feet or part thereof .....	\$10.00
Septic tanks or individual sewage treatment plants, each .....	\$30.00
Disconnect and plug main sewer connection .....	\$30.00
Tanks (not septic tanks). A permit separate from other permits required:	
Tanks through 1,000 gallons capacity (including mechanical interceptors) .....	\$30.00
1,001 through 6,000 gallons .....	\$45.00
6,001 through 15,000 gallons .....	\$70.00
15,001 through 30,000 gallons .....	\$115.00
Over 30,000 gallons .....	\$170.00

**117.6 Electrical.** The following is a schedule of the permit and inspection fees as required by the Electrical Code, with a minimum fee of \$12.00, where not otherwise specified:

**117.6.1 Services.**

Meter loop and service

Up to and including 50 kW ..... \$12.00

51 kW through 250 kW ..... \$20.00

Over 250 kW ..... \$30.00

Panels with eight or more circuits (each) ..... \$5.00

Outlets (each) ..... \$0.35

(All light switches and receptacle openings and bell-ringing transformers are classified as outlets).

**117.6.2 Fixtures and Appliances.**

Fixtures (each) ..... \$0.35

(Any current-consuming device permanently attached to an outlet for illumination purposes shall be classified as a fixture.)

Electrical appliance-domestic

Range receptacle (each) ..... \$2.25

Clothes dryer (each) ..... \$2.25

Stove top (each) ..... \$2.25

Oven (each) ..... \$2.25

Garbage disposal (each) ..... \$2.25

Dishwasher (each) ..... \$2.25

Window air-conditioner receptacle (each) ..... \$2.25

**117.6.3 Motors.**

Motors, permanently installed (each)

Up to and including 1 horsepower ..... \$1.50

Over 1 horsepower through 10 horsepower ..... \$6.00

Over 10 horsepower, ..... \$5.00

plus \$0.30 per each additional horsepower

Motor control equipment is included in the motor fees. Outlets for future motor installation shall be charged for at one-half of the regular motor rates applying. The other one-half shall be paid at the time the motors are installed.

Permanent connections of electrical appliances, equipment and transformers of any nature:

Unless another fee is specified for the apparatus to be installed in this section, the fee shall be based on the kW rating of the apparatus. Each kW shall be considered to be one horsepower, and the fees shall be the same as indicated for "motors, permanently installed", above.

#### **117.6.4 Signs.**

Shop inspection of incandescent electrical signs and gas or vacuum tube signs, each:

0 to 5 kVA ..... \$30.00

Additional for each kVA or fraction thereof exceeding 5 kVA . \$5.00

Installation inspection of incandescent electrical signs and gas or vacuum tube signs, each:

0 to 5 kVA ..... \$30.00

Additional for each kVA or fraction thereof exceeding 5 kVA . \$5.00

#### **117.6.5 Outdoor and Temporary.**

Streamers and festoon lighting per circuit (each) ..... \$6.00

Ball park and parking lot light poles (no outlet or fixture charge) (each)  
..... \$30.00

Temporary installations, such as wood saws, floor surfacing machines, painting/spraying apparatus and the like, per installation ..... \$15.00

Temporary installation of commercial sound equipment ..... \$20.00

Temporary lighting installations ..... \$15.00

Temporary installations such as carnivals or similar installations for amusement show display or similar uses shall be charged for on a kVA basis. For the purpose of this classification 1 horsepower of motor load shall be considered as one kVA.

0 through 10 kVA ..... \$20.00

Additional for each kVA or fraction exceeding 10 .....	\$1.00
Temporary saw poles (per installation) .....	\$20.00
Temporary cut-in made permanent .....	\$30.00
Additions to existing work shall be charged for at the same rate as new work.	
Reconnection fee .....	\$20.00

## **117.7 Elevators.**

**117.7.1 General.** Every person proposing to install an elevator, dumbwaiter, escalator, manlift, moving walk, inclined stairway chairlift, personnel hoist or wheelchair lift shall file a written request for a construction permit with the building official and pay the following installation fees for each unit:

New installations and alterations:

Passenger or freight elevator, escalator, manlift, moving walk, inclined stairway chairlift, personnel hoist or wheelchair lift, where the equipment is to be installed in other than a private residence, each:

Up to and including \$40,000 of valuation .....

\$55.00

For each additional \$1,000.00 of valuation or fraction thereof

..... \$1.00

Personnel hoist-manufacturing design permit .....

\$500.00

(required in addition to above fee if the hoist is not already permitted)

Same equipment if installed in a private residence, each:

Up to and including \$10,000.00 of valuation .....

\$15.00

For each additional \$1,000.00 valuation or fraction thereof .

\$1.00

Installation fees for equipment other than personnel hoists include an operating permit for the first year of operation, where applicable.

Installation fees for personnel hoists include a limited permit for the first 90 days of operation.

**117.7.2 Inspections.** The building official shall not be obliged to perform the test or inspection if the building official does not then have qualified personnel to perform it. If the jurisdiction provides the inspections, fees shall be payable to the building official as follows:

1. Each personnel hoist:

Acceptance load test\* (includes two monthly inspections) ..

\$150.00

Periodic test, three months (includes two monthly inspections)	\$75.00
Addition to tower plus any test fee, single-cage hoist . . . . .	\$50.00
Addition to tower plus any test fee, twin-cage hoist . . . . .	\$75.00
2. Acceptance inspection for each elevator (new installation and alteration) . . . . .	\$300.00
3. Acceptance inspection for each escalator, dumbwaiter, wheelchair lift, manlift or moving walk (new installation or alteration) . . . . .	\$150.00
4. Annual inspection for each elevator except where lesser fee is provided below . . . . .	\$125.00
Reinspection fee . . . . .	\$50.00
5. Escalator annual inspection, each . . . . .	\$125.00
6. Moving walk annual inspection, each . . . . .	\$125.00
7. Wheelchair lift annual inspection, each . . . . .	\$125.00
8. Dumbwaiter annual inspection, each dumbwaiter: For 2 through 10 landings . . . . .	\$100.00
For each additional landing . . . . .	\$5.00
9. Manlift or inclined stairway chairlift annual inspection, each	\$125.00
10. Traction elevator maintenance load test*	
Five-year maintenance load test . . . . .	\$250.00
Counter-weight safeties, add . . . . .	\$75.00
With reduced stroke buffer, add . . . . .	\$20.00
With spring buffer, add . . . . .	\$125.00
11. Hydraulic elevator three-year load test <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	\$125.00
12. Reschedule of test: Additional fee if owner or elevator company cancels, unless notice is given to the building official by at least 1:00 p.m. on the preceding working day . . . . .	\$100.00

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1. Load test shall be performed by an elevator maintenance/installation company and the test shall be witnessed by the building official or an approved agency

13. If an elevator test cannot be completed within eight hours because the elevator did not comply with the requirements of this code when the test was begun, there shall be an additional fee of \$50.00 for each additional hour or portion thereof.

**117.7.3 Reinspection fee.** In the event it becomes necessary to make a reinspection of any work or equipment due to deficiencies in order to issue an approved inspection report, the applicant shall pay to the building official for each reinspection a fee of \$50.00.

**117.7.4 Operating permit or limited permit.** An operating permit or limited permit shall be required for each elevator, dumbwaiter, escalator, manlift, moving walk, inclined stairway chairlift, personnel hoist or wheelchair lift. An operating permit shall be valid for one year, and a limited permit shall be valid for 90 days. The fees for operating permits and limited permits shall be:

Each elevator .....	\$30.00
Each escalator or moving walk .....	\$20.00
Each dumbwaiter .....	\$12.00
Each personnel hoist .....	\$25.00
Each wheelchair lift .....	\$20.00
Each manlift .....	\$15.00
Each inclined stairway chairlift .....	\$15.00

Each escalator or moving walk unit powered by one motor shall be considered as a separate unit.

**117.8 Signs.** Fees for all signs covered by the Sign Code shall be as follows:

- 1. Site inspections** ..... \$60.00
- 2. Reinspection fee:**
  - Site, hole and electrical ..... \$25.00
- 3. Construction or reconstruction permit**
  - For the first 50 square feet of one sign face or fraction thereof ... \$45.00
  - Each square foot or fraction thereof of one sign face exceeding 50 square feet ..... \$0.33
- 4. Operating permit--on-premises signs:**
  - For the first 50 square feet of sign face or fraction thereof ..... \$15.00



Each square foot of sign face or fraction thereof exceeding 50 square feet  
 ..... \$0.27

**5. Operating permit.** Off-premises signs that advertise the sale or rental of real property or direct persons to the location of real property for sale or rent, which signs are limited to 40 square feet in sign face area for a nonrenewable three-year permit as authorized in Section 4612 (b) of the Sign Code  
 ..... \$100.00

**6. Operating permit.** Off-premises signs other than as provided above  
 ..... \$40.00

**7. Replacement of lost or damaged operating tag** ..... \$25.00

**8. Plan examination fee** ..... \$25.00

**9. Plan reexamination due to alteration of approved plan** ..... \$25.00

In addition to the above fees, the fees required by Section 117.1.1 shall be paid. Fees for signs requiring electrical permits shall be paid as set out in Section 117.6.

#### **117.9 Medical gas permits.**

\$3.00 per each gas outlet, with a minimum fee of ..... \$30.00

#### **117.10 Alarms, Detectors, Central Station Security and Testing.** Fees for alarms, detectors, central station security and testing shall be as follows:

1. Smoke- or heat-actuated detectors-1 to 10 ..... \$30.00

Each additional detector ..... \$2.00

2. Each emergency central alarm system/station ..... \$25.00

3. Emergency public address system-1 to 9 floors ..... \$40.00

Each additional floor ..... \$4.00

4. Security system, minimum ..... \$25.00

Each floor in excess of two ..... \$10.00

5. Retest entire emergency system ..... \$75.00

6. Retest any single-type system ..... \$25.00"

#### **B. IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON MECHANICAL CODE, SECTION 121.5 IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

**"121.5 State License Notification Requirement.** Each person licensed under the Texas Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractor License Law shall notify and register his or her notification with the Administrative Authority in a form and manner prescribed by the Administrative Authority prior to performing any work pertaining to that license within the jurisdiction. The notification shall be duly registered and maintained on file within the offices of the Mechanical Inspection Section, Building Inspection Division, Department of Planning and Development. The fee for initial notification registration shall be \$30.00. A notification registration maintenance fee of \$30.00 shall be paid annually thereafter. Each notification registration shall expire on December 31 of each year. Additionally, a notification registration shall expire upon the registrant's failure to provide proof of current insurance coverage or proof of license renewal.

A notification registration initiated or reinstated during the renewal period will become due for renewal on December 31 of the following calendar year."

**B. IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON MECHANICAL CODE, SECTION 122.2.2 IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

**"122.2.2 Stationary Engineer Examination Application.** An applicant for a first-grade stationary engineer's license shall present to the board service letters, or certified copies of same, showing that he or she has either the following specified experience or combination of experience and education: (i) at least five years of hands-on boiler operating experience on boilers used to heat water or liquid for environmental heating or commercial processing purposes or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat; (ii) a graduation certificate from an accredited engineering school and at least two years of hands on boiler operating experience with boilers used to heat water or liquid for environmental heating or commercial processing purposes or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat; or (iii) a United States Department of Labor diploma showing the applicant finished a full three-year course as an apprentice stationary engineer and two years of hands on boiler operating experience with boilers used to heat water or liquid for environmental heating or commercial processing purposes or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat.

An applicant for a second-grade stationary engineer's license shall present to the board service letters or certified copies of same, showing that he or she has: (i) at least three years of hands on boiler operating experience with boilers used to heat water or liquid for environmental heating or commercial processing purposes or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat; or (ii) a graduation certificate from an accredited engineering school and at least one year of hands on boiler operating experience on boilers used to heat water or liquid for environmental

heating or commercial processing purposes or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat.

An applicant for a third-grade stationary engineer's license shall present to the board service letters or certified copies of same, showing that he or she has: (i) at least two years of hands on boiler operating experience with boilers used to heat water or liquid for environmental heating or commercial processing purposes or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat; or (ii) a graduation certificate from an accredited engineering school and at least six months of hands on boiler operating experience on boilers used to heat water or liquid for environmental heating or commercial processing purposes or for generating steam or vapor by direct application of heat.

No person may take an examination for a stationary engineer's license unless he or she has submitted the service letters, certificates, and/or diplomas to the board as required by this section and the submitted documents have been accepted by the board.

Applicants will be required to correctly answer at least 70 percent of the questions comprising the examination and will be required to attain at least a grade of 70 percent on the examination in order to qualify for a stationary engineer's license of any grade. All questions and answers will be written in the English language.

When an applicant for a stationary engineer's license shall fail to satisfactorily pass an examination, the applicant shall not be entitled to a refund of the examination fee paid to the jurisdiction and shall not be reexamined for the grade in which the applicant failed, or examined for a higher grade, within a period of less than 90 days.

Each applicant shall pay the following examination fee for each and every such examination an applicant applies for:

First-grade stationary engineer .....	\$30.00
Second-grade stationary engineer .....	\$30.00
Third-grade stationary engineer .....	\$30.00

The fee is to be paid to the Administrative Authority at the time the application is filed. All service letters or certified copies thereof presented by anyone taking an examination shall be filed with the application. An applicant shall not be eligible for examination within seven days of the date of application, but shall be examined by the board on, but not later than, the date of the next regularly scheduled examination thereafter.

Applicants who have successfully passed the examination shall pay a \$30.00 license fee to the jurisdiction prior to the issuance of the license. The license shall expire on December 31 of the year of issuance, unless sooner suspended or revoked.

Thereafter, the license may be renewed annually pursuant to the provisions set forth below. The receipt for payment of a license renewal fee shall be displayed with the license and failure to do so shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license."

B. IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON MECHANICAL CODE, SECTION 122.2.3 IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

**"122.2.3 License Renewals.** License renewals shall be granted without reexamination upon payment of a fee of \$30.00, provided such fee is paid within 30 days after the expiration date of the license and not thereafter. When an application for renewal is filed more than 30 days after the expiration of the license, the fee for renewal shall be \$35.00 during the first year after the expiration date plus \$30.00 for each additional year or part of a year thereafter. When the annual license renewal fee has not been paid for a period of five consecutive years, the license shall not be renewed until the applicant has successfully passed a reexamination.

Each certificate or license issued under the terms and provisions of this section shall be signed as required by the board."

B. IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON MECHANICAL CODE, SECTION 123.0 IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

**"123.0 Boiler Operator's Permit**

An owner or user of any hot-water-heating boiler or low-pressure hot-water-heating boiler used to heat water or liquid for environmental heating or commercial processing purposes or a power boiler having an aggregate heat output that does not exceed 1,676,000 Btu per hour, may apply to the board for a permit to allow the boiler to be operated by the owner or user or by a person knowledgeable in the operation of the boiler, instead of by a licensed stationary engineer. The person who is to operate the boiler or boilers shall be the owner of the boiler or his or her bona fide employee and shall demonstrate competency to do so in a manner determined by the board. The board shall establish the method of testing and the minimum knowledge, ability, and qualifications such person must demonstrate to show competency to operate the distinctive types of boilers. If a person demonstrates competency in the operation of the type of boiler for which the permit is sought, the permit shall be granted upon the payment of a permit fee of \$25.00. The permit shall expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, unless sooner suspended or revoked for cause.

Renewal of such permits shall be granted upon the payment of \$30.00 if the renewal is applied for within 30 days after the expiration of such permit. If the

renewal is not applied for within 30 days, the applicant may renew the permit upon payment of a fee of \$35.00.

A permit shall be valid only for the specific location and for the boiler(s) at the location named on the permit. Separate permits may be issued for a person to operate boilers at two or more locations owned by the employer of the boiler operator listed on the permit.

When a permit is issued for boiler operation at two or more locations, the applicant must file for a separate boiler operator permit for each location and pay the fee for each boiler operator permit received.

When an operator's permit becomes lost or destroyed, the board may grant a new permit on the same basis as is set out in Section 122.2.4 for the replacement of a stationary engineer's license.

All permits issued for the operation of boilers in effect immediately preceding the adoption of this code by City Council shall expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December of the year in which this code is adopted. Any such permit may be renewed as though it had been originally issued pursuant to this code."

**Section 2.** That Section 10-87 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Sec. 10-87. Fee.**

The annual fee for a license required by this division shall be \$70.00 for a Class A license and \$50.00 for a Class B license. Such fee shall be paid at the time the application for a license is filed. No part of this fee shall be refunded whether or not a license is granted, but shall be held by the city to reimburse its expenses of investigation and inspection."

**Section 3.** That Section 29-160 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Sec. 29-160. Applicable fees.**

(a) In addition to the fees set forth in this section, all other applicable inspection and permit fees as set forth in this Code and in the Building Code must be tendered to the building official with the application.

(b) The following fees are hereby imposed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter:

	Fee
Original manufactured home park or recreational vehicle park license (section 29-78(a))	\$300.00
Renewal of manufactured home park or recreational vehicle park license (section 29-78(b))	55.00
Annual fee for each manufactured home lot in a manufactured home park (section 29-78)	35.00
Annual fee for each lot designed and used exclusively for recreational vehicles in a manufactured home park or a recreational vehicle park (section 29-78)	60.00
Transfer of license for manufactured home park or recreational vehicle park (section 29-77)	75.00
Inspection of placement of manufactured home (section 29-41)	60.00
Reinspection fee for second reinspection and each subsequent reinspection of placement (section 29-41)	25.00
Certification of manufactured home (section 29-42)	40.00
Reinspection fee for second inspection and each subsequent reinspection for certification (section 29-42)	20.00
Inspection fee for recreational vehicle (section 29-61)	25.00
Authorization for connection of manufactured homes and/or recreational vehicles to electricity on a sales lot and each annual renewal (section 29-148)	150.00"

**Section 4.** That, if any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council in adopting this Ordinance that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, voidness or invalidity of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable for that purpose.

**Section 5.** That this Ordinance shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the one hundred eightieth (180<sup>th</sup>) day next following the date of its passage and approval by the Mayor and shall apply to all fees assessed and collected on or after that date.

**Section 6.** That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect as provided in **Section 5**, above.

**PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of July, 2003.**

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Mayor of the City of Houston

Prepared by Legal Dept. \_\_\_\_\_  
PRB:asw 06/12/2003 Senior Counsel  
Requested by Robert Litke, Director, Department of Planning and Development, and Lester Tyra, Fire Chief  
L.D. File No. 0640200009002